Misuse of Staff Cars

179. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been many cases of uttar misuse of Government Staff cars attached with individual officers.

(b) if so, the number of staff cars which do run 70 kms and above per day and what are the entries made in the log books;

(c) the extent to which this run on daily basis could be genuine as also the entries and whether there is any proposal to investigate all such entries/run.

(d) whether staff cars have also been provided to officers below the status of Joint Secretaries and equivalent in Government offices including defence headquarters;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, wherefrom the officers below the rank of Joint Secretaries have been managing the staff cars?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (c) The use of Staff Cars is regulated in accordance with the provisions contained in the Staff Car Rules. The Staff Cars form a pool and are deployed according to availability and requirement. The Controlling Officer is responsible for proper use of Staff Cars and for regulating journeys in Staff Cars. Log Books are required to be maintained for each staff car to prevent its misuse and entries made in these Log Books are required to be scrutinised by a senior officer in the concerned Ministry/Department, preferably of the rank of Joint Secretary. No specific case of misuse of Government Staff Car has been reported to the Ministry of Finance.

The information regarding the number of Staff Cars that run 70 Kms. and above per day is not centrally maintained and will have to be collected from all the Ministries, Department and attached/subordinate offices. The time and labour involved in collecting the information may not be commensurate with the results to be achieved.

(d) to (f) Officers below the rank of Joint Secretary who are deputed on official duty, are entitled to the use of Staff Cars.

Lending and Deposit rates of banks

180. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prior to nationalisation of Banks and for many years after nationalisation, the banking sector has been providing a number of services and facilities to the account holders free of charge, and were by and large meeting the operational and other expenses from the differentials between lending and deposit rates;

(b) if so, the details of the differentials between lending and deposit rates in the banking sector before nationalisation and during 1980, 1990 and the latest; and

(c) the circumstances under which the nationalised banks are proposing or have stated pricing and escalating charges for most of its facilities and services, for example for drafts, cheque books, cheque, collections, dishonour of cheques, intimation about dishonour of cheques, issue of credit/debit certificates etc?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) Indian Banks' Association have reported that banks were levying service charges before as well as after